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The Twentieth Century for Peace.

The outlook for international peace at the opening of the twentieth century is far and away more encouraging than was the case a hundred years ago. At that time, from the human point of view, there was no outlook at all. War was the fashion everywhere, dueling was well nigh universal, pacific methods of settling controversies between nations almost unthought of, and he would have been mocked as the absurdest of dreamers who had dared to prophesy that at the end of the nineteenth century a permanent international arbitration court would have been set up.

The past century has been more remarkable in no other direction than in the development of arbitration as a means of adjusting controversies between nations. It was some years after the century opened before the subject began to be thought of or talked of seriously. But having once been put forward, the idea took deep hold of men's minds, and at the close of the century it has almost completed the conquest of international politics. The first decade of the past century saw no disputes settled by arbitration. The third saw only four. But the last decade saw sixty-three. It was in this last decade that the permanent arbitration court movement, after sixty years of struggle, came to its full strength. The matter of such a court had been much discussed between 1815 and 1850. But during these years, and for many subsequent ones, men talked only of what ought to be. At the close of the century they talked of what must be, and the thing was done.

The change in men's opinions has of course been equally marked. For no such great accomplishment as the permanent court comes out of unwilling minds. This court is not the only evidence of the change of opinion. Official representatives of all the South American states, none of which participated in the Hague Conference, have recently at Madrid gone beyond the Hague Convention and declared, with only one dissenting voice, in favor of treaties of *obligatory* arbitration. Many other evidences exist of the transformation of public sentiment during the century in regard to war, which have often been noted in our columns, but which we cannot now repeat. It is ground for the greatest encouragement that the new century opens with this improved public sentiment and with a growing transformation of institutions corresponding thereto.

It is true that the century begins with two very bad and shameful wars on hand, with militarism superficially dominant everywhere, and many forms of injustice and latent war still in existence. But the spirit which through the past century originated and developed the movement for international peace, and many other humane movements, when wars were the daily bread of kings and princes, not only lives, in spite of these *fin de siecle* manifestations of barbarism, but is a hundredfold stronger and larger than it was even forty years ago. Public expression against these wars, and all wars, incomplete and in many respects humiliating as it still is, is one of the most noteworthy moral phenomena of the time. The day of persecution for such expression, at least in material forms, is past in nearly all civilized lands.

Will the twentieth century bring peace, universal and permanent, among the nations of the earth? It is better not to prophesy. It ought to be so. If the development of the peace idea and of pacific methods